

21. (NEW) The computer network system as set forth in claim 20, wherein the position in the real world for each of the resources is different.

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 17 has been amended and claims 20 and 21 have been added. Claims 1-11 and 16-19 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-11 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,893,116 to Simmonds et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,911,143 to Deinhart et al.

Simmonds et al. does not disclose "plural connecting means capable of connecting and disconnecting a computer is connected to one of said connecting means," as recited, for example, in claim 10. According to this feature, there are multiple connecting means which are external to the computer. This feature is illustrated, for example, in FIG. 1 of the present application, which illustrates information consents 3A-3C which connect PC 4 to LAN circuit 2. (1)

Instead, Simmonds et al. discloses a network file redirector 116 that operates in three different modes. These three modes correspond to normal connection with a LAN, narrow band connection with a telephone line, and non-connection, but do not correspond to the claimed plural connecting means. In the first mode, the computer 100 is connected to network 102, which connects to resources 106, which may include a printer. Simmonds et al. column 6, line 39 through column 7, line 22; FIG. 1. In a second mode, requests from the computer 100 are directed from network file redirector 116 to a local replica 120, which includes replicated resources. In the second mode, the network 102 is still reachable from the computer 100. In the third mode, the network 102 is not reachable by computer 100, therefore the network file redirector 116 must redirect requests to the replicated resources 120. Thus, Simmonds et al. does not disclose a plurality of connecting means, and does not disclose that the connecting means are provided in a network circuit to which the computer is connected. Instead, a single connecting means is disclosed, which is located in the computer. ??

Furthermore, the Examiner relies upon Deinhart et al. as disclosing that the resource information managing means manages information including the position in the real world of the resources, as set forth, for example, in claim 10. According to this feature of the present invention, each resource is assigned a specific location. This feature is illustrated, for example, in FIG. 2 of the present invention, which shows three printers, with three different position locations.

In contrast, Deinhart et al. does not disclose assigning a different position in the real world to each resource. Instead, this reference appears to disclose assigning the same print location to all printers within a large geographical area. Specifically, resource set 9 includes all printers at the location Heidelberg, and all of the individual resources 10 have this same print location. Deinhart et al., column 9, lines 51-67; FIG. 5. Thus, Deinhart creates a list of available resources, whereas an object of the present invention is to select a candidate for the most suitable resource. (2)

Accordingly, claim 10 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 1 recites "said first computer comprises resource information managing means for managing information relating to resources, including the position in the real world of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit." Accordingly, independent claim 1 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 2 recites "said first computer comprises resource information managing means for managing information relating to resources, including the position in the real world of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit." Accordingly, independent claim 2 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 3 recites "said first computer comprises resource information managing means for managing information relating to resources, including the position in the real world of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit." Accordingly, independent claim 3 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 4 recites "said computer comprises resource information managing means for managing plural sets of information relating to the resources, including the position in the real world of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit." Accordingly, independent claim 4 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 5 recites "said first computer comprises resource information

managing means for managing plural sets of information relating to resources, including the position in the real world of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit."

Accordingly, independent claim 5 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 6 recites "said computer comprises resource information managing means for managing plural sets of information relating to the resources, including the position in the real world of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit." Accordingly, independent claim 6 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 7 recites "each of said first computers comprises resource information managing means for managing information relating to a resource installed at a specific position in the real world usable through said network circuit." Accordingly, independent claim 7 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 8 recites "said computer comprises resource information obtaining means, when another computer is connected to said connecting means of said network circuit, for obtaining information relating to the usable resources through said network circuit from said other computer, said information including the position in the real world of the resources, and resource setting means for setting the resource according to the information relating to the resource obtained by said resource information obtaining means." Accordingly, independent claim 8 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 9 recites "said computer comprises resource information managing means for managing plural sets of information relating to the resources, including the position in the real world of the resources." Accordingly, independent claim 9 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 10 recites "said connecting means comprises resource information managing means for managing the information relating to the resources, including the position in the real world of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit." Accordingly, independent claim 10, and claim 11 depending therefrom, are patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 16 recites "a resource information inquiring unit for inquiring the information relating to the resources, including the position in the real world of the resources, which are usable in said network." Accordingly, independent claim 16 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 17 recites "first and second connecting units to connect and disconnect said computer, the first and second connecting units comprising a resource information managing unit to manage resource information relating to a resource which is usable through said system." Accordingly, independent claim 17, and claims 18 and 19 depending therefrom, are patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

NEW CLAIMS:

Independent claim 20 is added and recites "said connecting means comprises resource information managing means for managing the information relating to the resources, including a position in the real world for each of the resources." Accordingly, independent claim 20 and claim 21 depending therefrom are patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** claim 17 in accordance with the following:

17. (ONCE AMENDED) A system comprising:

a computer; and

first and second connecting units [unit] to connect and disconnect said computer, the first and second connecting [unit] units comprising a resource information managing unit to manage resource information relating to a resource which is usable through said system, and said computer comprises a resource setting unit to set the resource according to the resource information.